

New-York Daily Tribune

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 1863.

THE TRIBUNE IN CIRCULATION—Our Office in Carbon
dile. Pa. on Monday. The Tribune, Daily, Semi-Weekly,
or Weekly, of New-York, N. Y.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.
No notice can be taken of Anonymous Communications.
Whatever a correspondent writes must be sent to the
editorial office, and not to the office of the printer.
We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.
All business letters for this office should be addressed to
"The Tribune," New-York.

TO ADVERTISERS.
THE WEEKLY TRIBUNE has the largest circulation
of any newspaper in this country, if not in the world. It is
taken by the enterprising farmers, mechanics, merchants, and
manufacturers throughout all the States; and business
men in this city who desire to reach these classes can do so
quite effectively by advertising in THE WEEKLY TRIBUNE.
Price \$1 a day. Advertisements for this week's issue must
be handed in to-day.

Notice.
Advertisements of Religious Meetings and of Mar-
riages and Deaths will be charged fifty cents for each insertion
in THE TRIBUNE.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE WAR.

—Rebel papers have dispatches from the West,
stating that a great battle has been fought at Vicksburg,
with heavy losses on both sides, but without
any decided success. They also confirm the story of
the capture of the gunboat *Indianola*.

P. S.—Vicksburg is evacuated.

—We have New-Orleans dates to the 23d. An
order issued by Major-General Banks explains the
system of labor adopted for the year, and planters
assenting thereto are to be assisted in inducing their
negroes to return. The negroes are to be secured
sufficient and wholesome food by the officers of the
Government, and a share of the crops they produce.
Those not thus engaged will be employed on the
public works without pay, except in the way of
food, clothing, medical attendance, and such instruction
as may be furnished them. An order has been
issued by Gen. Banks forbidding the taking away
of negroes from the plantations by any officer or
other person in the United States service, without
authority from Headquarters. About 500 Rebel
prisoners, including Gen. Clarke, were sent to the
Rebel lines on the 20th ult. Capt. Lewis, of the
gunboat *Lacona*, on the 20th captured from a cruise
in the Gulf. The captain brings intelligence which
settles effectually the Rebel reports, current recently
in this city, that the *Harriet Lane* had escaped to sea.
That vessel is still shut up by our gunboats, and
there is no doubt of her being still inside the
bars. She has, however, been taken up one of the
rivers, and it is believed that the Rebels are making
her an iron-clad.

—An expedition of 1,000 cavalry, comprising a
detachment of the 4th Regulars, 3d and 4th Ohio,
and 1st Tennessee Regiments, and 1,000 infantry,
containing detachments of the 18th and 21st Ohio,
19th Illinois, and 2d Tennessee Regiments, left Murfreesboro on Sunday morning, and encountered the
enemy at Brandyville. After severe fighting the
enemy were driven from the town, with the loss of
8 killed and 30 wounded, and 7 privates and 8
officers captured. Our loss was 1 man killed, 1 cap-
tain and 8 men captured.

—The U. S. steam-transport *Illinois*, from New-
Orleans via Key West, Feb. 27, with merchandise
and passengers to Major Van Vleet, United States
Quartermaster, arrived at this port last evening.

—Jefferson Davis has issued a proclamation nam-
ing Friday, March 27, as a day of fasting and prayer
throughout the Rebel dominions.

GENERAL NEWS.

—In the United States Senate, on Monday night,
the Revenue bill (which our summary left under
discussion) was amended, by charging two per cent
on the value of vessels and boats hereafter built.
The bill was then reported to the Senate and passed.
—The only amendment not concurred in was that
taxing the custom-work of tailors, milliners and
shoemakers three per cent; the tax remains one per
cent only. The bill was then taken up and discussed
for a long time; the Pro-Slavery
Senators were determined to defeat it by talking
against it, and making frivolous motions. Finally,
at 5 o'clock in the morning, the report of the
Conference Committee was agreed to, and the bill
was passed. The filibusters made much ado about
it, and yesterday, under pretext of correcting the
journal, tried to recall the bill. Having wasted an
hour or two of valuable time, they abandoned it
and went to bed. The bill was then taken up, and
the motion was made to amend the bill; the motion
was lost, Yeas 13, Nays 23. This being
disposed of, the bill to modify the tariff
was adopted without amendment. A bill
was offered and laid on the table, to allow
the United States to accept the property
defectively devised by the late Commodore Levy.
The Coastwise Telegraph bill was called up, and
laid on the table. Mr. Sumner's Mediation Resolu-
tions were called up, and after feeble opposition,
adopted by 31 to 6. The Nevada Branch Mint bill
was passed. A Committee of Conference on the
Internal Revenue bill was appointed. The resolution
to inquire into the disposition of a traitorous
assembly in Kentucky was called for, but the
Senate refused to take it up. The bill to incorporate
the National Academy of Sciences was passed. A
resolution was adopted recommending the President
to appoint a day of fasting and prayer. The bill
to enable U. S. District Courts to issue executions was
passed. The bill to regulate the grade of line offi-
cers in the Navy was adopted. The bill to amend
the act for the collection of duties on imports was
passed. A bill was passed for the relief of certain
persons who have performed volunteer surgeon's
duties. A commission was ordered to codify the
Naval Laws. An effort to pass the bill authorizing
Provisional Governments failed—it was thought too
late in the session to pass such a measure. The bill
to organize the Territory of Montana (Idaho) was
adopted. After some skirmishing by the Pro-Slavery
wing, the bill to admit Nevada as a State was
passed, 24 to 16. A report of the Conference Com-
mittee on the bill to carry into effect the treaty with
Peru was concurred in. The Senate concurred in
the report of the Conference Committee on the
Internal Revenue bill. The Miscellaneous Appropria-
tion bill was taken up, and an effort to strike out
the Third Mileage clause failed by a vote of 17 to
20. Our report goes no further at this writing. See
regular proceedings.

—The House, on Monday night, after the close
of our summary, passed the following Senate bills:
One to facilitate the taking of testimony to be used
in foreign countries for legal purposes; one granting
the use of Judiciary or Army square on which to
erect a Home for Destitute Newborns; one to incor-
porate the Institution for the Education of the
Colored Youth of the District of Columbia. The
bill to sell the Mendocino Reservation was tabled.
The Senate resolutions of thanks to Gen. Rosecrans
were passed. A bill in relation to frauds on
the revenue was passed. The bill authorizing
letters of marque was adopted. The Committee

on the Conduct of the War had power granted
to sit for 30 days after adjournment. The Nevada
Branch Mint bill passed. A bill was passed in
relation to the revenue, reducing the duty on
printing paper from 35 to 30 per cent. Adjourned.
In the House yesterday, the Senate bill to allow U.
S. courts to issue final process in certain cases was
adopted. The Internal Revenue bill was taken up;
some Senate amendments were not agreed to, and a
Conference Committee was ordered. The House
concurred in the Senate's section to tax transactions
in gold, silver and bullion. The House passed the
bill to increase the revenue by the reservation and sale
of town sites on river shores, mortgages, &c. The
Miscellaneous Appropriation bill was amended in com-
mittee so as to give a million of dollars to defray in
part the expenses of certain States in calling out
militia for home defense. An attempt to get in
\$200,000 for League Island failed; \$100,000 was put
in to carry into effect the acts relative to habeas
corpus. The bill was then reported to the House.
The bill to reorganize the Courts of the District of
Columbia was passed, after sharp opposition, by 87
to 28. On the Miscellaneous Appropriation bill in
the House, a separate vote was taken on the Third
Mileage clause, and it was decided by two majority
to pay mileage for this session in addition to the
two sessions of this Congress already settled for.
The resolutions denying admission as members of the
House of persons claiming to be elected from the
VIIIth Virginia and IXth Tennessee Districts were
passed. The House voted to print 10,000 copies of
Gen. Pope's report. A report was made from the
Judiciary Committee affirming that the Postmaster-
General has power to exclude objectionable or
treasonable newspapers from the mails. The Senate
bill incorporating the National Academy of Sciences
was concurred in. Mr. Sumner's resolutions con-
cerning Foreign Intervention were concurred in by
102 against 57. The House concurred in the Senate
bill to organize the Territory of Idaho (Montana).
The boundary is fixed so as to embrace the Salmon
and Snake River gold mines of Washington Terri-
tory. The House concurred in the Senate's amend-
ments about property in insurrectionary districts;
also passed the resolution to look after the Com-
modore Levy bequest; also concurred in the amended
Naval Grade bill. An effort to suspend the rules to
take up the Pacific Railroad bill was unsuccessful.
The Conference report on the Peru Treaty bill was
agreed to. The House passed the bill for a special
agent to collect abandoned property in Rebel dis-
tricts. The bill regulating proceedings in prize cases
was passed. The usual vote of thanks to the
Speaker was unanimously tendered. A resolution
to print 15,000 of the amendments to the Internal
Revenue act, and 30,000 of the National Militia law,
was adopted. Our dispatch stops here. For re-
minder of doings, see regular report.

—In the New-York State Senate yesterday,
the following bills were reported favorably: To define
the duties of the Contracting Board; to provide for
the payment of interest on canal drafts protested for
non-payment; to authorize the Canal Board to hear
and determine the claims of contractors for damages;
to amend the general railroad law; making regula-
tions for building bridges so as to protect the lives
of baggage men; relating to the making up of rail-
road trains. The following bills were introduced:
To provide for recording certificates of marriage; to
extend auction duties; to improve Union-avenue,
New-York. The Volunteer Bounty Tax bill was
passed. The Chenango Canal Extension bill was
then taken up, and occupied the remainder of the
session.

In the Assembly, the following bills went through
the Committee, and were ordered to a third reading:
The annual Canal Appropriation bill; to appropriate
the proceeds of the State tax to the support of the
Schools; to incorporate the Society for the Protec-
tion of Destitute Children in New-York; the annual
Appropriation bill for the support of the Government
was taken up, and debate ensued, occupying the ses-
sion till the adjournment.

—By the arrival of the *Bio Bio* at this port yester-
day, we have Havana dates to Feb. 26. The opinion
prevails there that the Alabama will remain in those
waters, lured by the hope of a vast amount of prey.
The official *Gaceta* of Cuba publishes a communica-
tion from the Spanish Minister at Washington to the
Government of Cuba that the blockade of Galveston
and Charleston have been reestablished. News
from Yucatan to Feb. 6 reports many outrages com-
mitted by rebellious Indians. The revolution in
Venezuela, according to the last accounts (Jan. 31),
was not yet suppressed, yet several places had been
occupied by the Government forces.

—Gov. Sprague yesterday resigned the office of
Governor of Rhode Island, in order to assume that
of United States Senator. There is no Lieutenant-
Governor, Samuel G. Arnold, who was elected last
Spring, having resigned in order to serve till March
4, in the United States Senate. William C. Coz-
ens of Newport, the presiding officer in the State
Senate, becomes, in accordance with the provision
of the constitution of Rhode Island, the Acting
Governor after Gov. Sprague's resignation.

—At a meeting of the Democratic Association, in
this city, last evening, speeches were made by John
McKen and James Brooks, in favor of the right of
Secession, and against the "wicked war" to put
down the Rebellion. The audience listened the name
of the President frequently, and loudly applauded
every reference to the "gallant" State of South
Carolina, "the State which dared to vindicate its
rights as a free and sovereign State should."

—The prize-schooner *Annie*, of Nassau, N. P.,
from Wilmington, arrived at this port last evening.
The *Annie* was captured Feb. 25, off Wilmington,
while attempting to run the blockade at that place,
by the U. S. steamer *Star of Georgia*. She has
a full cargo of salt.

—The brig *Herald*, Capt. Wing, arrived yesterday
from St. Domingo City, brings home Capt. James
Warren, leader of the brig *Chastelain*, burned by the
Confederate steamer *Alabama*. There are also eight
seamen from that vessel and the bark *Golden Rule*,
also burned by the Rebels.

—On Sunday night an accident occurred on the
New-York and Albany Railroad caused by a land slide.
The engine and tender, baggage and express cars, were
thrown into ten feet of water. Two lives were lost,
and many persons were wounded.

—Col. Ernest Roumaine was officially received at
the Department of State yesterday, and presented his
credentials as Chargé d'Affaires from Hayti.

—Rochester, Oswego, Troy, Utica, and Lockport,
in this State, yesterday elected Democratic charter
officers.

—Yonkers village yesterday elected Republican
charter officers by handsome majorities.

—The stock market yesterday morning was not
active in shares and was generally heavy. The bears took
advantage of the weakness of the market and hammered with
vigilance. Governments were not very active and were weak,
excepting in one-year Certificates, which were in demand at
92½. At the Second Board there was a marked change
in the tone of the market, with a general advance in the share
list. At the 4 o'clock call the market was not, in all cases,
as strong as at the Second Board. In foreign bills there is nothing
of importance doing. Sterling is 125½. France 2½.
23.00. Freight is rather quiet, yet steady.

—The *New-Haven Register* states that the ex-
cellent Resolves against Slavery Extension of the
Legislature of Connecticut in 1859, passed

while Thomas H. Seymour was Governor, were
not officially approved by him—such resolu-
tions requiring no Executive approval—and
were opposed by a majority of the Democratic
members, but passed by a minority of that
party together with nearly all of the republi-
cans of the antagonist parties. We accept
this statement as in so far a correction
of our own. It is not the less true, however,
that the State and the Legislature were Dem-
ocratic when these resolves were passed, and
that they truly expressed what was then her
deliberate conviction.

Vicksburg is evacuated, says a dispatch from
Buffalo. At this writing the particulars have
not arrived, but are promised forthwith. This
is the explanation of the Rebel story of a hard
fight without advantage on either side. We
print a map of the interesting locality, and
shall give the good news as fast as it is
received.

Congress worked bravely yesterday, and with
a decorum highly praiseworthy. So far as our
reports have reached us at this writing, we
hear nothing of the free-and-easy style which
has too often characterized the last night of
the session. Night before last, the Pro-Slavery
Senators worked desperately to defeat the
Indemnity bill, but it went through safely at 5
o'clock in the morning, and has been signed
by the President.

The Senate yesterday passed the Tariff modifi-
cations; the Mediation resolutions of Mr.
Sumner; the Nevada Mint bill; the Academy
of Sciences bill; the bill to regulate grades in
the Navy; the Idaho Territory bill; the bill to
admit the State of Nevada; agreed to the Con-
ference report on the Internal Revenue bill;
and at midnight were at work on the Miscel-
laneous Appropriation bill, in which they voted,
Yeas 17, Nays 20, to keep the Third Mileage
clause. The Coastwise Telegraph bill failed;
also the bill authorizing the establishment of
Provisional Government. Our present dispatches
leave the Senate at work on the Miscellaneous
Appropriations.

The House has put through almost every-
thing of importance. Among the leading acts
are these: To detect and punish frauds on
the Revenue; authorizing Letters of Marque;
for a Branch Mint in Nevada; amending the
Tariff, and reducing the duty on Paper; al-
lowing U. S. Courts to issue executions;
the Internal Revenue amendments, in-
cluding a tax on sales of Coin and Bul-
lion; the Miscellaneous Appropriation bill,
with the third mileage clause (carried
by two majority); to reorganize the Courts of
the District of Columbia; the Sumner Mediation
Resolutions, 102 to 27; to organize Idaho
Territory; about Property in Insurrectionary
Districts; to regulate proceedings in Prize
Cases—and here our regular dispatches end.
The regular report will give the concluding
proceedings.

THE XXXVIII CONGRESS.

The XXXVIII Congress expired with yester-
day's sitting, which will terminate by ad-
journment at some hour of this forenoon.
Those who will cease to be Senators at that
hour are as follows:

Samuel E. Arnold, R. L.	David Turpin, Ind.
Frederic R. Blair, N. Y.	Andrew J. Washburn, Va.
William Wall, N. J.	Henry M. Rice, Minn.
David Wilson, Penn.	Anthony Kennedy, Md.
William F. Wall, Va.	Richard L. Latham, Cal.
William F. Wall, Va.	Robert Wilson, Md.

The following, whose terms expire with yester-
day's sitting, have been re-elected for a full
term of six years ensuing:

Lucas M. Merrill, Maine.	Benj. F. Wade, Ohio.
Edwin B. Sumner, Mass.	James A. Bayard, Del.
Samuel P. Vest, Va.	Zachariah Chandler, Mich.
James Dixon, Conn.	James R. Doolittle, Wis.

The following will first take seats to-day in the
new Senate:
William Sprague, R. I.
Edwin B. Morgan, N. Y.
William Wall, N. J.
Charles H. Rowles, Penn.
John C. Calhoun, S. C. (probably absent).
Mr. Harlan has been strongly rumored as a Senator
from West Virginia. He lives at Wheeling, in the very
heart of Eastern Virginia, and was chosen by the loyal Legis-
lature of old Virginia to represent that State. West Virginia
has as yet chosen no Legislature, and of course no U. S. Sena-
tors.

Of the Members of the House, so far as the
elections have transpired, but about a third
have been re-elected. Thus of the thirty-three
Members from this State, but ten are returned
to the next House; of the twenty-four from
Pennsylvania, but eight; of the nineteen from
Ohio, but five; of the eleven from Indiana, but
five; Missouri returns three out of seven, and
so on. Massachusetts returns six of her eleven;
we note no other State as having yet returned
a majority of her sitting Members. Of the six
Members chosen to the next House from Michi-
gan, but one (Francis W. Kellogg) is re-elected.
Many of the leading Members of the present
House will not have seats in the next. Messrs.
Thomas of Mass., Sedgwick, R. Conkling,
Diven, Olin, Spaulding, and P. A. Conkling of
New-York, Hickman, Grow, Campbell, Covode,
H. B. Wright, and Biddle of Pa., Bingham,
Horton, Shillabarger, and Vallandigham of
Ohio, McKee, Dunn, and A. S. White of Ind.,
Potter of Wisconsin, and Phelps of Missouri,
are of this number. We do not regard this as
a decidedly strong House; but as yet the elec-
tions afford no promise that the next will be
stronger. Messrs. Boutwell of Mass., Hubbard,
Kernan, Littlejohn, Fernando Wood, Brooks,
and Ganson of our State, Thos. Williams and
Dawson of Pa., R. C. Schenck, Bliss, and R.
P. Spaulding of Ohio, Orth of Ill., Kasson of
Iowa, are those whose past careers give the
fairest promise of eminence in the new House.
Several of these have served with distinction in
former Houses; others in the Legislatures of
their respective States. No doubt, the new
House will develop marked ability in quarters
whence it is not now anticipated.

Of the Members of the present House who
have already been re-elected, Messrs. Stevens
and Kelley of Penna., Corning and Fenton of
N. Y., Cox and Ashley of Ohio, Blair and
Rollins of Mo., Colfax and Hohmann of Ind.,
Lovejoy and E. B. Washburne of Ill., Eliot
and Alley of Mass., are best known to the
country. Mr. Stevens would have been a
prominent member of any deliberative body
that ever met, and with just a little more
deference to the judgments and wishes of his

friends, would be a model parliamentary
leader. Mr. Colfax falls a little short of the
ideal standard through an opposite error—a
horror of minorities, and of saying or doing
to-day what is unlikely to be popular till day
after to-morrow. Judge Kelley of Philadelphia
has probably as clear a conception of the great
struggle into which we have been plunged, and
as eminent a power of setting forth the whole
truth without frightening the weaker brethren,
as any man who for many years has addressed
the House. Mr. Lovejoy is a most vigorous
debater, but sometimes commits the mistake
of making his statements needlessly offensive
to his opponents. The defeat of Vallandigham
and the elevation of Richardson to the Senate
advances S. S. Cox to the speaking lead of the
Copperhead phalanx in the House, espe-
cially if Mr. May should take brevet rank in
Jeff. Davis's next Congress, in accordance
with the tenor of his late Speech speech. But,
whether he repairs again to Richmond or stays
away, it is most unlikely that Mr. M. will be
returned to Washington. He clearly has busi-
ness at the other shop.

The Congress now dissolving had no leaders
of such transcendent ability as Messrs. Lowndes,
Clay, Calhoun, Webster, &c., were in their
day and generation. It can hardly be said to
have been at all under the control of indi-
vidual minds. Its doings must fill a large space
in our country's future history, and will mark
its most memorable epoch since the acknowledge-
ment of its independence. This Congress had
defects and made some mistakes; but it will
ever be remembered as the first which dared to
look this Republic's chief bane and peril full
in the face, and say to it—"You are a cancer
that must be extirpated or the victim will
die!" Of course, much of the credit of this
cure to the times—or rather, to the Rebel-
lion which fashioned the times—but it is still
a momentous fact. Conviction of sin is the
first step toward repentance; and this
nation is several marches further on the road
to impartial, universal Freedom, since it has
recognized the incompatibility of Slavery with
Freedom. Whatever may be our immediate
fortunes, this truth is certain to bear fruit;
and through whatever intermediate disasters
and sufferings, our children shall rejoice in the
possession of a peaceful, powerful, prosperous
republic stretching from the Arctostock to the
Rio Grande, and shielded from further com-
motions by the fact that every inhabitant has
a personal interest in its tranquility and its
liberty.

ARMING NEGROES.

"Mynheer priest," queried a dubious Dutch-
man, "do you really believe that the Hebrew
prophet Eliah made iron swim?"

"I certainly do," was the quiet reply.

"Do you believe an ax could now be made
to swim?"

"Certainly, if he who attempted it had
undoubted faith that God would so illustrate
his power."

"Well, I have faith—here goes!"

Away went the ax into the lake; and down
it went to the bottom, like a very dense
stone.

"There—I knew it would n't," exclaimed the
Dutchman, chagrined at his folly and his loss.

If the experiment of arming Blacks to fight
their natural enemies, the slaveholding Rebels,
be tried in this spirit, it is certain to fail. If
it be hedged about by every restriction or an-
noyance—if men are invited to volunteer to be
stoned and shot for their country as a matter
of exceeding condescension and favor to them
—if they are to have inferior pay, privileges
and consideration, to other soldiers—if they
are forewarned that they can never win pro-
motion or commendation—if they are to be
jeered, abused, kicked, and stoned by other
Union soldiers for their presumption in attempt-
ing to serve their country—we presume all
they will do is of small account. Spartans
would not volunteer to fight in defiance of
such indignities.

In the Revolution, and again in the Last
War with Great Britain, our fathers began by
being very fastidious as to the color of their
musketiers. We are not sure that any color
was *per se* proscribed, but in 75 it was
gravely voted scandalous to think of recruiting
our armies with slaves. Before the war was
nearly through, we had thoroughly "conquered
our prejudices," and hundreds of slaveholders
were drafted to serve in our Continental
armies sent their negroes instead, promising
them freedom if they would fight gallantly
through the war, and then (some, not all, of
them) trying to evade the fulfillment of their
contract. The Courts of Virginia in those days
brought these repudiators up all standing, com-
pelling them to execute deeds of manumission,
though the Chief Justice of the United States
denies to slaves all standing in his Court and
declares that, in Revolutionary times, they
were regarded as "having no rights that white
men were bound to respect." He could have
said nothing more repugnant to history.

Blacks—both free and slave—played an im-
portant part in the combat of our Revolu-
tionary War, though at first they were scarcely
allowed to enter the ranks as a favor. The
gallant defense of Fort Red Bank on the Dela-
ware was mainly the work of Blacks. In the
battle of Rhode Island they bore a conspicuous
and honorable part. In the Last War with
Great Britain great efforts were made to enlist
them toward the end; and Gen. Jackson or-
ganized a fighting battalion of them for the
defense of New-Orleans, and publicly thanked
them for their gallantry in battle. Generals of
his sort never trouble themselves about a sol-
dier's color; they only want to know that he
can drill, march and shoot.

If Blacks are to do any good in our present
contest, they must be organized and led by
officers who believe in them. Gentlemen who
can't bear the smell of an African (except
when handing plates over said gentlemen's
shoulder) will never get any good out of them.
As a general rule, every officer in a Black
regiment should in the first place be a true
man; next, he should be one who treats every
human being according to his essential worth,
regardless of his color—and didn't begin to do
this after he thought of becoming an officer of
Blacks. Given the right men as officers, under

a system which treats every man according to
his merits, and Black soldiers will prove most
effective combatants of the Slaveholders' Re-
bellion.

GEN. BANKS AT NEW-ORLEANS.

Pursuant to the terms of the order in which
Gen. Banks republished the President's Procla-
mation, he has issued another, more pre-
cisely defining the relations between the Gov-
ernment and the Planters of Louisiana. We
regarded his first order as mischievous in tem-
per and tendency, as opposed to the spirit
which animated the Proclamation of Freedom,
and as practically annulling it within the limits
of the Department of the Gulf. The details
of the present scheme are conceived with the
same complete disregard for the welfare of the
negroes and the authority of the President,
and they improve upon the inhumanity of the
original order in several respects.

With reference to the question of the em-
ployment of the blacks, the serious mistake of
Gen. Banks was and is that he considers the
Government and the Planters to be the only
interested parties. The matter evidently lies in
his mind substantially in this way: "Here are
plantations wanting labor, and a Government
that does not want to be burdened or bothered
with negroes. The negroes, to be sure, are
free, but then they have no political import-
ance, and not many friends. They must work
in some way, they are incapable to take care
of themselves, and the best practical solution
of the difficulty is for the Government to com-
pel them to return to their masters, secure
them low wages, and trust to the interest of
the planters not to abuse them any more than
is necessary to make them work. So the
Government will be relieved from a burden
and a responsibility, the planters will be con-
ciliated, cotton, and sugar, and corn will get
planted, and the negroes—well, the less said
about them the better. Nobody really cares
for negroes."

Gen. Banks accordingly appoints a Sequestra-
tion Committee; the Committee makes a bar-
gain with the planters, and the negroes have
nothing to do but acquiesce in the arrange-
ment. The planter gets his labor for a nominal
price, and the Government gets rid of a
troublesome question—only undertaking by way
of performing its share of the contract to en-
force "continuous and faithful service, respect-
ful deportment, correct discipline and PERFECT
SUBORDINATION on the part of the negroes."

In other words the military authorities of the
Department of the Gulf, who were charged by
the President to "recognize and maintain" the
freedom of the emancipated blacks have gone
into the business of slave-driving on the largest
possible scale, and the officers who went down
to Louisiana from the free soil of New-Eng-
land and New-York to suppress a Rebellion
of Slaveholders, are made overseers of planta-
tions which the Government stocks with re-
enslaved blacks.

But this is not all. The negroes who are
not wanted on the plantations are provided
for with the same generous and considerate
care which is bestowed on the rest. It is not
enough that the Government shall help the
slaveholders coerce the labor of free blacks,
but it goes into the business of enforcing un-
paid toil on its own account. Gen. Banks
orders that the negroes not "engaged" on the
plantations shall be "employed on the public
works or in the Quartermaster's Department,
WITHOUT PAY, except their food and clothing,
medical attendance, and such instruction
and care as may be furnished to them and their women and children." Possi-
bly such economy of administration may
be deemed too careful. The Government is
spending a great deal of money, no doubt, but
we shall be slow to believe that it will resort
to indiscriminate oppression and plunder of the
negroes in order to save to the National
Treasury the amount of their hard-earned
wages. Let the Administration leave every-
thing else to the will of its General if it must,
but do not leave him to enrich his military
chest by extortion from the only class of peo-
ple subjected to his sway, who are absolutely
and totally unable to resist or remonstrate
against his oppression.

Other orders of Gen. Banks, and other
proceedings under his authority, supply ad-
ditional evidence, if any is needed, to show
how completely his department is administered
in the interest of the slaveholding class—a
class that, without exception, is malignantly
and defiantly disloyal to the Government
which he represents. He has forbidden the
removal of negroes from the plantations by
any officer or other person without authority
from his headquarters. He has left no means
untried to discourage enlistments of the blacks.
None will be received who have been at work
on the plantations, and those who are already
enlisted may withdraw from the service if
they choose. His Quartermaster, to
whom he gives the Planter's Committee
a note of introduction, assures the slaveholders
that everything will be done to restore "lost"
negroes. His Sequestration Committee is en-
deavoring to secure the services of former
overseers of plantations—of course because
they are supposed to be familiar with the ap-
proved Louisiana method of enforcing planta-
tion discipline. In a word, Gen. Banks appears
to have yielded without hesitation or reluc-
tance to every demand which the grasping
avarice, the hostility to freedom, the hatred to
the policy of the Government, the cunning
selfishness and the inhumanity of the Louisiana
slaveholders can have induced them to make.

A JUST REBUKE.

The Committee of Invitation of the Wash-
ington Celebration at Nashville declined to
read a letter from Gen. Leslie Combs of
Kentucky, because he claimed the Abolitionists
with the Secessionists! Said Combs:

"Nothing would afford me greater pleasure than to de-
monstrate in Nashville, in the vicinity of the tomb of Jackson,
the vile traitors of the South, who have plotted the over-
throw of our Government, as I would, at Federal Hall, the
co-leaders of the North—the malignant Abolitionists. I
would and Kentucky must stand together, and fight with
bayonets and ball both sides of traitors, and save the Union
and the Constitution. We can do it, and owe it to ourselves,
our ancestors, and our posterity, to do it."

The Tennesseans, believing with Governor
Andy Johnson, that Slavery is the cause of
the wicked Rebellion, and remembering how,

when 20,000 stand on arms were sent to
Cincinnati early in the war, for the Union
men of East Tennessee, Kentucky would not
allow them to pass through the State, and how,
by that act of "neutrality," she placed loyal
East Tennessee helpless at the feet of Jeff.
Davis's Despotism, could not brook such
doubtful sentiments as those of Mr. Leslie
Combs. Of course, the action of the Nash-
ville Committee stirred the Louisville Journal
to anger, and, as Beauregard recommended, it
roundly denounced them as Abolitionists. But
the time has gone by when such epithets can
do any harm, and the sooner the quasi Union-
ists of Kentucky recognize the fact the better.

MASON.

We suspect that the guides, philosophers
and friends of Plenio Mason have taken leave
of their wits. It was distinctly understood,
when that ponderous Rebel was dispatched
Aldobonward, that he should be well watched
by judicious agents of the Southern Govern-
ment. The secret motive in giving him a nom-
inal mission was, as we all know, to get rid
of him. At Montgomery and Richmond he
was continually putting his finger and his foot
into every department of public affairs. As
might be expected, the extremities of so colos-
sal a numskull soon obstructed business to a
dangerous extent; and it was decided that he
must be set at work in some direction where
fingers and feet might be intruded without im-
mediate peril to the cause. His natural in-
clinations and sympathies turned toward Lon-
don, for obvious reasons. In the first place,
London is foggy. In the next place, London
is dull. In several additional places, London
is pompous, fussy, egotistic and braggart—all
of which qualities lured the congenial senses of
the ex-Senator. If there were any earthly
conditions which, above all others, he felt him-
self qualified to meet without fear of being
overmatched, they were precisely those of fog,
dullness, pomp, fuss, egotism and brag. To
London, then, he was sent, though not with-
out misgivings. For precaution's sake, Sil-
dell (considered to have brains enough for two)
was not only deputed to exercise a jealous
scrutiny from the Continent, but a certain
number of adroit diplomatists were unofficially
attached to the